

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: ARA:GCHAFIN:JM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BUENOS AIRES 0633 ACTION SECSTATE
30 JANUARY 76.

QUOTE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MURDER BENDIX EXECUTIVES BY TERRORISTS, JANUARY 29, 1976

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE SUBSTANCE OF A REPORT FURNISHED TO
ME BY RSO GEORGE S. BECKETT BASED ON HIS VISITATION TO THE
BENDIX PLANT AND INTERVIEW OF MR. HORATIO O. PARADA, MANAGER,
FINANCIAL SECTION.

A. PARADA ARRIVED AT THE PLANT AT 0930 HOURS THURSDAY,
JANUARY 29, 1976. UPON ENTERING THE PLANT HE NOTICED WHAT
APPEARED TO BE A DEAD BODY LYING ON THE SIDEWALK NEAR THE
MAIN ENTRANCE AND A CROWD OF PEOPLE AROUND THE OFFICE. HE
SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT THE BODY ON THE SIDEWALK WAS THAT
OF A PROVINCIAL POLICEMAN WHO HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE
TERRORISTS WHILE HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO INTERFERE WITH THEIR
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ACTIVITIES. PARADA WAS TOLD BY VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE

STAFF THAT 13 MEN AND TWO WOMEN HAD ENTERED THE PLANT. THEY USED A PICK UP TRUCK AND TWO SEDANS AND IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS POLICEMEN. THE TERRORISTS BROKE INTO FOUR UNITS WITH THREE OF THE UNITS OVERING THE MAIN GATE, SECONDARY GATE AND OUTSIDE OFFICE AREA. THE FOURTH GROUP, TWO MEN, APPARENTLY HAD BEEN ASSIGNED THE ASSASSINATION TASK. THEY ASKED FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, PROCEEDED TO HIS OFFICE AND ASKED FOR HIM BY NAME. HIS SECRETARY INFOMED THE TWO MEN THAT THE GENERAL MANAGER WAS OUT OF TOWN. SHE WAS REQUESTED TO LEAVE THE OFFICE AND A SMALL BOMB WAS PLACED INSIDE. THE BOMB DESTROYED THE INTERIOR OF THE GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE. THEY PROGRESSED TO THE OFFICE OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGER IDENTIFYING HIM BY NAME AND SHOT HIM WHILE HE SAT BEHIND HIS DESK. NEXT THEY WENT TO THE OFFICE OF THE MANAGER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND SHOT HIM WHILE HE WAS SITTING BEHIND THE DESK. THE GROUP THEN DEPARTED THE PLANT. AT THE ONSET OF THE INCIDENT THE TERRORIST GROUP CUT ALL TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PLANT. PARADA WAS ADVISED THAT THE TERRORISTS SEEMED SURPRISED THAT THE GENERAL MANAGER WAS NOT AT THE PLANT. TERRORIST DISCUSSION INDICATED THAT THEY THOUGHT THE GENERAL MANAGER WOULD BE MAKING A TRIP BUT WOULD NOT DEPART UNTIL JANUARY 30. NO TERRORISTS WERE KILLED DURING THE INCIDENT. THE COMPANY DOES NOT HAVE A SECURITY GUARD FORCE BUT ONLY PROVIDES A GROUP OF PORTEROS WHOSE MAJOR SECURITY FUNCTION IS THE SEARCHING OF WORKERS TO PROTECT THE PLANT AGAINST PETTY LARCENY. NONE OF THE PORTEROS ARE ARMED. PARADA ADVISED THAT SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL AT THE PLANT THE PLANT WAS CLOSED AND ALL WORKERS WERE DISMISSED. HE STATED THAT A DECISION WOULD BE MADE BY THE GENERAL MANAGER ON JANUARY 30 CONCERNING WHETHER THE PLANT WOULD BE REOPENED. PARADA STATED THERE HAD BEEN NO LABOR PROBLEMS OR THREATS.

2. THE FOLLOWING WAS OBSERVED DURING THE VISITATION TO THE PLANT:

A. THERE WERE NO WORKERS PRESENT.

B. THERE WERE NO SUPERVISORS AT THE PLANT.
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C. NO ONE WAS PRESENT AT THE PLANT WHO COULD FURNISH INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TERRORIST INCIDENT.

D. ALL TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS HAD BEEN DISRUPTED.

E. THE TERRORISTS USING SPRAY CAN PAINT HAD WRITTEN ON THE OUTSIDE WALL OF THE OFFICES A MONTONERO SLOGAN.

3. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE WAS FURNISHED TO MR. STANLEY CLEVELAND PRESIDENT, BENDIX INTERNATIONAL, AND MR. J. W. FIELDS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR PERSONNEL, BENDIX BY TELEPHONE ON JANUARY 29, AT 1945. INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED PER THEIR REQUEST TO ME.

4. IT HAS BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BENDIX CORPORATION VISITED THE SECURITY OFFICE OF THE EMBASSY DURING THE PERIOD THAT RSO BECKETT WAS ON HOME LEAVE AND RSO MCNULTY WAS IN CHARGE. NO MATERIAL CAN BE LOCATED IN THE FILES REFLECTING THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT.

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